

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. By this amendment claims 1, 6 and 13 are amended and claims 20-22 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matsunuma et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0121593 A1) in view of Pike et al. (U.S. Patent 6,420,097), Aminpur et al. (U.S. Patent 6,482,726), Wolf ("Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era," Vol.1: Process Technology, p. 194), Bergman (U.S. Patent 5,332,445), and Applicants' admitted prior art (pages 3-4). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Matsunuma et al. is the publication of U.S. Application 10/630,747, filed July 31, 2003. The enclosed certified translations of Korean applications 10-2003-0047491, filed July 12, 2003, and 10-2003-0022107, filed April 8, 2003, establish a date of invention for the claimed subject matter that is prior to Matsunuma et al.'s July 31, 2003 U.S. filing date. Accordingly, Matsunuma et al. are not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the rejection based on Matsunuma et al. fails to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 2-4 and new claim 20 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

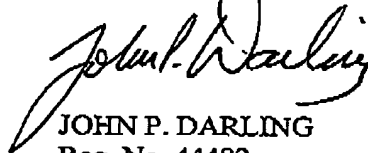
Independent claims 6 and 13, and dependent claims 7-12 and 14-19, and new claims 21 and 22, respectively, are allowable for the same reasons discussed above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

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